Oklahoma Chess Monthly

APRIL 2018

Chess News and Chess History for Oklahoma

George Hulburd 1932 - 2018

In This Issue:

- George Hulburd 1932-2018
- Arkansas Open
- Book Review by IM John Donaldson
- Plus News Bites, Game of the Month, Puzzles, Top 25 List, Tournament Reports, and more.

THE SECRET LIFE OF GEORGE HULBURD

George P. Hulburd 1932-2018
Three-Time State Champion

by Tom Braunlich
with research by Harold Brown

George Hulburd died at age 85 on March 4, 2018, in Tulsa. He was mild-mannered and quiet, yet was one of the strongest Oklahoma players for decades, becoming state champion in 1968, 1970 and 1974. He continued to be a leading player into the 1990s, reaching a peak rating of about 2135 in 1992.

Yet no one knew much about him.

He was affable but never talked about himself or socialized with friends. So upon his passing Harold Brown and I decided to see what we could find out about his life inside and outside of chess, and the results might surprise you.

The last few years of George's life were spent exiled from friends and remembrances of a chess career dating back to the 1940s, due to the effects of Alzheimer's Disease. Frank Berry visited him in 2014, hoping to interview him

"Oklahoma's Official Chess Bulletin Covering Oklahoma Chess on a Regular Schedule Since 1982"

http://ocfchess.org

Oklahoma Chess Foundation

Register Online for Free

Editor: Tom Braunlich
Asst. Ed. Rebecca Rutledge
Published the 1st of each month.

Send story submissions and tournament reports, etc., by the 15th of the previous month to mailto:tom.braunlich@cox.net

©2018 All rights reserved.

about his chess story. But George didn't recognize him or even remember anything about chess. The binders full of games from his chess career that George was known to have were also apparently lost, either burned up in the fire at his apartment over 10 years ago or misplaced during the move to an assisted living facility where he spent his last years.

It seemed his life and memories may have been lost to posterity.

But thanks to Harold's skills as an amateur genealogist we have pieced together a remarkable backstory on the quiet champion.

Early Life in Vermont

George Poustie Hulburd came from a very old and distinguished family in Vermont, where he was born in 1932 in Hyde Park, a small prosperous county seat near Burlington.

His father, Benjamin N. Hulburd, was a distinguished lawyer, state attorney and legislator who became Chief Justice of the Vermont Supreme Court (1959-1963).

His grandfather, Roger W. Hulburd, was Lieutenant Governor of the state 1917-1919 and built the county courthouse in Hyde Park in 1910. His great grandfather Benjamin Franklin Hulburd served in the Civil War. He was among the 110 men from The Old Vermont Brigade that died at the battle of Cedar Creek, Shenandoah Valley Campaign. George's great uncle Daniel C. Hulburd is credited as the first abolitionist in Vermont. Another great uncle was Reverend David Porter Hulburd.

In fact, the family line reaches back to the earliest settlers in New England, a century before the American Revolution. It's the kind of family that has long been part of the high society scene of the state, and that places pressure on sons and daughters to continue the dignified tradition.

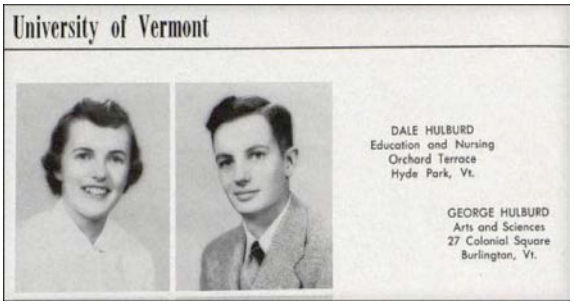
In George's case, perhaps the pressure was lessened a bit due to the fact he had a twin sister, Dale (and an older brother, Roger).

Both were good students in school, as they had to be considering that their father was also chairman of the School Board! (For example, in 8th grade George won a city-wide contest for his essay on the Civil War.) He excelled mainly in science and math.

Despite his background, George did not follow in the family footsteps of law and politics.

Sometime in his youth his father taught him chess, and George showed a special affinity and love for the game. He was soon playing in tournaments in the sparse Vermont competition scene of the days following World War II, and by the time he entered the University of Vermont in 1951 he was already one of the best players in the state. While there, he won the Burlington city championship in 1953 and 54 and at the state championship in 1954 was involved in a minor controversy. He finished tied for first with Adele Belcher, who had been U.S. Women's Champion in 1937 and 1940 (under the maiden name Adele Rivero). There was some confusion over the math tiebreaks system that took one and a half hours to straighten out. It wasn't until 1:30 in the morning before Mrs. Belcher was declared the champion, thus becoming the first woman to win that title. However, the Burlington city club later referred to George as the 1954 state champion in a newspaper report so perhaps the controversy remained.

George was graduated from the University of Vermont in 1954, along with his sister, with a degree in Engineering.


University of Vermont

DALE HULBURD
Education and Nursing
Orchard Terrace
Hyde Park, Vt.

GEORGE HULBURD
Arts and Sciences
27 Colonial Square
Burlington, Vt.

He was called into the Army in 1955, after a student deferment, where he was stationed in Korea as a radioman at the headquarters of the 31st Infantry Regiment. According to Harold Brown, George's tests upon entering the army

showed a high IQ and he was given a technical job despite not having gone to officer school.

The Burlington Free Press (Burlington, Vermont) · 16 Feb 1956

FORT LEWIS

NOW IN KOREA —Pvt. George P. Hulburd, son of Judge and Mrs. B.N. Hulburd, 27 Colonial Sq., Burlington, is now in Korea and has been assigned to the message center of the Hq. Co. of the 31st. Inf. Regt. Pvt. Hulburd received his basic training and attended radio school at Fort Dix, N.J.

25-year-old Hulburd returned to Vermont in mid-1957, got a job with Boswell Engineering Company, and started playing chess again in Burlington. He again tied for state champion in 1959, losing out this time in a playoff, and came 4th in 1960.

The Move to Oklahoma

In about 1960 George got a new job with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). They were in charge of building flood control structures and hydroelectric dams in many places in the 1960s, especially in northeast Oklahoma, where George was soon transferred in 1961. It is believed George worked on the team of engineers that designed the Keystone Dam, which was completed in 1968 to form Keystone Lake on the Arkansas River, just upstream from Tulsa. The dam was important to Tulsa, which previously was subject to massive floods near downtown from the river, but since have been well controlled. According to a source at the local office, George was part of a team that would scout out and analyze the geology of proposed sites for structures like the Keystone Dam and determine if they were geologically stable, exactly where to place proposed structures or whether they needed reinforcement, etc. The work involved using a drill truck to explore the underground rock structure and analyzing it in the lab.

The move from Vermont must have been wrenching for George, whose father had recently become Chief Justice on the Vermont Supreme Court (and who was to die only three years later). It may have seemed like he was leaving his distinguished family behind, to some extent. But it represented an important career move.

People at the USACE remember George as quiet and parsimonious. "He would never socialize with us after work, or offer to buy lunch," one of his work mates remembered. He was to have a career of over 30 years at the USACE based in Tulsa, during which time he lived in a small apartment a block from Riverside Drive and worked on many regional projects large and small. He was not ambitious in his career, but instead liked his simple position that suited his skills and left him plenty of time for his avocation of chess, with which he began tournament play in Oklahoma as soon as he arrived.

How Hulburd Learned the London

George's opening systems were as quiet as he was. With white he always played the London on move two: 1. d4 d5 2. Bf4, a move which was often ridiculed by his opponents at the time but was effective and since has risen to a main line opening championed by Kamsky and played often by Carlsen and many other top GMs now.

Around Oklahoma we came to call this the Hulburd Opening… but actually George said that he learned it from USCF Master Emeritus Harlow B. Daly (a legendary New England player) back in Vermont, where it was called the "Daly Opening." Daly played it in those days, including two games against George. (His win over Daly in 1960 is annotated by George himself in the "Okie Database".) George took up the opening himself and brought it with him to Tulsa. (See his reminiscence about this,

appended to the end of this article, reprinted from the *Oklahoma Chess Bulletin*, October 2000).

George soon established himself as a leading player in Oklahoma, although here the competition was much tougher. It was the era of Jerry Spann's USCF and leadership in Oklahoma (see OCM, Sept 2017), and the tournament scene here was dominated by the great Dr. Bela Rozsa and D. Ballard, as well as Victor McBee, all of whom were higher-rated than George (who was 1900-2000 range at this time).

Still, he kept at it. He played in events in Oklahoma, Texas, and Arkansas mainly. He finally won the Oklahoma state title in 1968 (the first year it was the Jerry Spann Memorial).

Here is one of his games against Dr. Bela Rozsa, 11-time state champion and a major rival in the 1960s:

Rozsa, Bela (2100)
Hulburd, George (1980) [C30]
League Tulsa, 1969
1.e4 e5 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.Bc4 Nc6 4.f4 Bc5 5.Nf3 d6 6.d3 Bg4 7.Na4 Bxf3 8.gxf3

8…Nxe4!? [8...Nh5 9.h4 exf4 10.Nxc5 dxc5 11.Bd2] 9.dxe4 Qh4+ 10.Kd2 Qxf4+ 11.Ke2 Qh4 12.Nxc5 Nd4+ 13.Ke3 [13.Kf1 dxc5 14.Kg2] 13...dxc5 14.c3 Nf5+ 15.Ke2 Nd6 16.Bd5 0-0-0 [16...0-0 17.Be3±] 17.Qa4 [17.Qg1+ñ] 17...Kb8 [17...c6 18.Bb3± *(18.Bxc6 bxc6 19.Qxc6+ Kb8 20.Qxc5 Qf6 21.Be3 Rd7 22.Rad1±)*] 18.Be3+ c6 19.Bb3 b5 20.Qa6 Nxe4?! 21.Qxc6 Rd2+ 22.Bxd2 Qf2+ 23.Kd3 Qxd2+ [23...Nxd2 24.Qxb5+ Kc7 25.Qa5+ Kb8 26.Bd5 c4+ 27.Bxc4 Qe3+ 28.Kxe3 Nxc4+ 29.Ke4 Nxa5 30.Rhg1+] 24.Kxe4 f5+ 25.Kxe5 Qe3+ 26.Kxf5 Rf8+ 27.Kg4 h5+ 28.Kg3 h4+ 29.Kg2= [29.Kg4 Rf4+ 30.Kh5 Qe5+ 31.Kg6 Rf6+ 32.Qxf6 Qxf6+ 33.Kh7] 29...Qe2+ 30.Kg1 Qe3+ 31.Kg2 **½-½**

He won the state championship again in 1970 and 1974. He also won a big tournament in Dallas in 1974.

"He affected an almost "apologetic" way of making each move, seemingly unsure of what he was doing, with a grimace on his face and a sigh on his lips as he reluctantly flopped a piece on a square, as if it was a random move in a bad position. *But he did this whether he was winning or losing…"*

1974 was when I first started out in chess events and came to meet George, whose rating was just under 2000 and with the retirement of both Rozsa and Ballard was the highest in the state. He was considered the strongest player then. He seemed like a GM to me when I first saw him play.

George had an odd countenance at the board.

He affected an almost "apologetic" way of making each move, seemingly unsure of what he was doing in his body language, with a grimace on his face and a sigh on his lips as he reluctantly flopped a piece on a square, as if it was a random move in a bad position. But *he did this whether he was winning or losing*, and his moves were usually well considered, and deadly if he had the initiative. Yet he always appeared to be in agony making them!

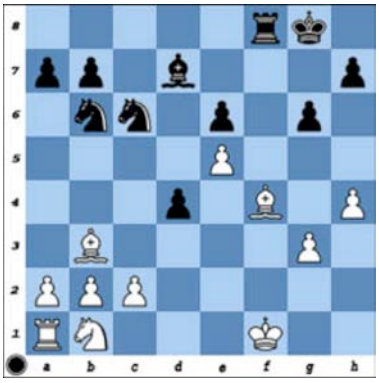
Often I wondered if this mannerism was deceit designed to disarm his opponents, but it did not appear to be so, but rather was his true personality coming out. He would sometimes give an "Oh shucks snap of his fingers" if he felt he had missed something big, and was often ribbed about it.

The Hulburd Variation of the Alekhine

As black vs 1 e4 he played the Alekhine Defense, and had a pet variation if you played

the mainline, in which he would fianchetto kingside: 1… Nf6 2 e5 Nd5 3 d4 d6 4. Nf3 g6 It was a simple system, but would not serve him well against higher-rated players, and he lost a lot of games with it. Yet he also knew it well, witness this game with GM Gufeld:

Gufeld, Eduard GM (2565)
Hulburd, George (1900) [B04]
2nd GM Gufeld Simul Tulsa, 18.05.2001
[Notes by Hulburd]
1.e4 Nf6 2.e5 Nd5 3.d4 d6 4.Nf3 g6 [Hulburd's patented variation of the Alekhine-TB] 5.Bc4 Nb6 6.Bb3 Bg7 7.Ng5 e6 8.f4 dxe5 9.fxe5 c5 10.0-0 Qxd4+ 11.Qxd4 cxd4 12.Nxf7 0-0 13.Nh6+ Bxh6 14.Bxh6 [A skittles game played some years before went 14.Rxf8+?? Bxf8 -+ Thoma-Hulburd G-20, Claremore circa 1993] 14...Rxf1+ 15.Kxf1 Nc6 16.Bf4 Bd7 17.g3 Rf8 18.h4



18…Nxe5 19.Nd2 g5 20.hxg5 Ng6 21.Ke2 Nxf4+ 22.gxf4 Rxf4 23.a4 Kg7 24.Nf3 Bc6 25.Ne1 Rg4 26.a5 Nd5 27.a6 Nf4+ 28.Kd2 b6 29.c3 dxc3+ 30.Kxc3 Rxg5 31.Rd1 Bd5 32.Bxd5 Rxd5 33.Rxd5 Nxd5+ 34.Kd4 Nc7 35.Ke5 Nxa6 36.Kxe6 Nc5+ By now it was almost 11PM and the place was thinned out. Many players had left. I had forgotten that I had 2 free passes to use. 37.Kd5 Kf6 38.Kc6 Ke5 39.b4 Kd4 40.bxc5 bxc5 41.Nf3+ Kc4 42.Ne5+ Kb4 43.Nd3+ Kc4 44.Nxc5 h5 45.Na4 a5 46.Nb6+ Kb4 47.Kd5 Kb5 48.Nc4 a4? [After the game the GM pointed out 48...h4 was the better try for a win. (Indeed this move wins as the knight can't stop this pawn without allowing the a-pawn to run—TB)] 49.Na3+ Kb4 50.Nc2+ Kb3 51.Nd4+ Kb4 52.Nc2+ ½-½

Still, he scored generally well with the Alekhine Defense, see for example this draw with veteran Senior Master John Curdo:

Curdo, John FM (2503)
Hulburd, George (2100) [B02]
U. S. Senior Open, Snowbird, Utah (2), 04.06.1988
[Notes by Hulburd]
Reprinted from OCB 6-1 page 26 1995
1.e4 Nf6 2.Nc3 d5 3.e5 Ne4 4.d4 Nxc3

[After the natural looking 4...Bf5 I couldn't see how to handle 5.Nce2 which threatens 6.f3 Yet after 5.Nce2 f6 Black may be better off than in the text. 5...f6]

5.bxc3 Bf5 6.Bd3 Bxd3 7.Qxd3 e6 8.Rb1 b6 9.Ne2 Be7 10.Nf4 0-0 11.h4 Nd7

We were playing on board one up on a stage with 2 large demo boards behind us. This set up made me feel like I was wearing a dunce cap and my ignorance was being broadcasted. With White's 11.h4 the guy running the demo board slapped the flat pawn up there with such an approving 'kawhop' even Curdo turned around for a look.

12.Qg3 c5 13.Qg4

13…Rc8

After the game Curdo praised me for the way I ignored his kingside attack, which was mostly bluff he said, and the way I played tightly on the queenside. [White hoped for 13...Kh8 14.h5]

14.Qe2? I was surprised and a bit relieved to see White back away from throwing more fire on Black's castle. Curdo mentioned he

should have "made it happen" on move 13 or 14. [What would I have done against 14.Nh5 g6 15.Bh6 probably 15...cxd4]

14...cxd4 15.cxd4 Qc7 16.Kd1 Qc4 17.Qxc4 Rxc4

Black is now seriously better.

18.Bb2 ½-½

Why did I accept the draw offer may be explained partly by Mike Petersen's enjoyable article in CL July-88, page 28 called "Drawn Conclusions" (about considering draw offers from higher rated opponents) and partly by seeing what happened to another expert playing Curdo in round 1. This guy had 2 pawns and a won game against Curdo at adjournment. The next morning with magical wizardary Curdo pilfered the whole point and went on to win the 6-round event with 5.5, a whole point ahead of the field.

Although the Fischer-boom crop of players in the late 1970s eclipsed George at the top of the state (generating some 10 masters in Oklahoma in those days), he still remained dangerous and pushed his rating up permanently into the Expert level, where it settled around 2100. He mainly played only in regional events, but occasionally went to play in a national tournament. For example, in 1986 he came 2nd place in the U2200 section of the American Open in Los Angeles.

> Bruce Wells remembers, "George loved chess! I grew up on the Oklahoma chess scene and started playing about 1986. I met this older gentleman in Tulsa. He was always a quiet person but he would talk to you if you talked to him. I remember Joe Veal and I would say, 'If you ever get to play George Hulburd you must be having an excellent tournament' … because George would be there to stop you from rising to that next level! He would always play the same thing for white and black; it didn't matter who his opponent was!"

By 1994 George had 45 years of tournament chess experience and was still rated around 2100 watching the generations of youngsters come and go through the chess scene and providing them a model veteran to aim at in their sights.

Then he retired from the Corps of Engineers and also began to limit his chess appearances to local tournaments, where he still terrorized the up-and-coming junior players. By the 2000s his play fell off considerably, possibly due to the onset of Alzheimer's Disease, but he still kept active.

His last tournament was in 2006, after a career in chess of about 55 years. He suffered through a fire at his apartment soon after that, lived for a while in a motel until he was able to get accommodations in a nursing home that could take care of him.

It's sad to think his memories of chess, to which he dedicated so much of his life, slipped away from him in his final years until it all was forgotten. But now we can remember George, and appreciate all he gave to chess in Oklahoma.

For more, see the reprint of George's article in the 2000 OCB (starting on page 9), and also enjoy some these additional games from George Hulburd, showing his play could be strong even nearing age 70:

Hulburd, George (1900)
Harrington, Robert (2209) [D00]
London Opening
OK Op JS Mem Stwtr (4.4), 25.06.2000
[Notes by Hulburd]
"My one win at the Jerry Spann OK Op state championship in Stillwater last June."
1.d4 d5 2.Bf4 Nc6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.e3 Bg4 5.h3 Bxf3 6.Qxf3 e6 7.c3 Bd6 8.Nd2 0-0 9.Bg5 Be7 10.Bb5 a6 11.Ba4 b5 12.Bc2 e5 13.Bxf6 Bxf6
Ignoring obvious transpositions and differences

in my moves from my round #1 game (Hulburd - G. Simms) this Rd 4 London Sys opening contains an echo of influence from that game, i.e.: 1.d4 Nc6 2.Nf3 d5 3.Bf4 Bf5 4.c3 Nf6 5.e3 e6 6.Bb5 Bd6 7.Ne5 Bxe5 8.Bxe5 0-0 9.Bg3 Ne7 10.0-0 b6 11.Nd2 a6 12.Be2 c4 13.Re1 Nc8 14.Bh4

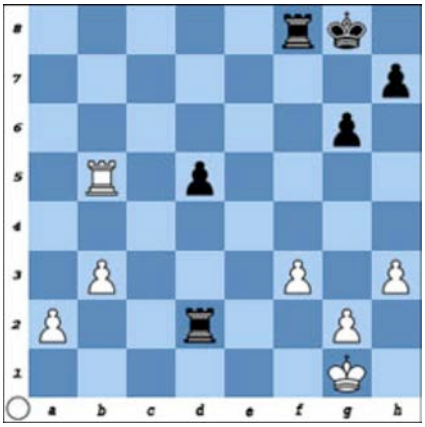
14.0-0 e4??

Black's game basically went south right here. I remember Robert saying after the game he dreaded his younger brother Steve getting on his case about playing too fast. His clock showed about one minute used at this point!

15.Nxe4 Na5

[15...dxe4 16.Qxe4 and White gets back his piece and a 2nd pawn.]

16.Nxf6+ Qxf6 17.Qxd5 Nc4 18.b3 Nb6 19.Qf5 Qxf5 [19...Qh6 Dunlap] 20.Bxf5 g6 21.Be4 Rae8 22.Bf3 f5 23.Rfe1 Rf6 24.e4 fxe4 25.Rxe4 Ref8 26.Re3 [26.Re7 Dunlap] 26...c6 27.Rae1 Nd5 28.Bxd5+ cxd5 29.f3 Rc6 30.Re6 Rxc3 31.Rxa6 Rd3 32.Rb6 Rxd4 33.Rxb5 Rd2



Some time around here White worried about Black doubling up his rooks on White's second rank. At times when playing a master I worry about what he can do to my side and forget what my forces can do to his. The position says White should go after the 7th rank.

34.a4 d4 35.Re7 Rd8 36.Rbb7 Rb2 37.Rg7+ Kf8 38.Rxh7 Kg8 39.Rhd7 Rxd7 40.Rxd7 Rxb3 41.Rxd4 Ra3 42.Rd6 Kg7 43.Ra6 Ra2 44.h4 Kh7 45.Kh2 Kh8 46.Kh3 Kh7 47.g4 Ra3 48.Kg3 Kg7 49.Ra7+ Kg8 50.Kf4 Kf8 51.Kg5 Rxf3 52.Kxg6 Rf4 53.Kg5 Rc4 54.h5 Kg8 55.h6 Rc5+ 56.Kg6 Rc6+ 57.Kh5 Rc5+ 58.g5 Rc1 59.g6 Rh1+ 60.Kg5 Rg1+

The genial master from Stillwater, who manages the local Red Lobster Restaurant, confessed he was trying for a stalemate. This wouldn't be the first nor last time I've had a wild rook chase my team around gobbling all and threatening to stalemate at every turn. My monarch now moves like a duck in a shooting gallery: Ka-Ping! -- Ka Ping!

61.Kf5 Rf1+ 62.Ke5 Re1+ 63.Kd5 Rd1+ 64.Kc5 Rc1+ Ka-Ping! 65.Kb5 Rb1+ 66.Ka6 Rb8 67.a5 Kh8 68.Rb7 Ra8+ 69.Kb6 Re8 70.Rc7 Rb8+ 71.Ka7 Re8 72.Kb7 1-0

Hulburd, George (1900)
Simms, Gary <TX> (2200) [D02]
OK Op JS Mem Stwtr (1.3), 2000
1.d4 Nc6 2.Nf3 d5 3.Bf4 Bf5 4.c3 Nf6 5.e3 e6 6.Bb5 Bd6 7.Ne5 Bxe5 8.Bxe5 0-0 9.Bg3 Ne7 10.0-0 b6 11.Nd2 a6 12.Be2 c5 13.Re1 Nc8 14.Bh4 Qd7 15.Bxf6 gxf6 16.Bf3 cxd4 17.exd4 Rb8 18.Qe2 Qa7 19.Qe3 Nd6 20.Qf4 Qd7 21.g4 Bg6 22.Qxf6 Qb5 23.h4 Qxb2 24.Rad1 Ne8 25.Qf4 Rc8 26.h5 Bc2 27.Qg5+ Kh8 28.Qe5+ Kg8 29.Qg5+ Kh8 ½-½

Hulburd, George (1900)
Roring, Tres (1660) [A83]
Rozsa Cl Ch-O Tulsa (3.4), 18.11.2000
[Notes by F Berry]
1.d4 A83: Dutch Defence: Staunton Gambit 1...f5 2.e4 fxe4 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bg5 Nc6 5.f3 e3 [5...exf3 6.Nxf3 e6 7.d5 exd5 8.Nxd5≥] 6.Bxe3 g6 7.d5 Ne5 8.Bd4 Nf7 9.Bc4 Bg7 10.Nge2 Nd6 11.Bb3 Nf5 12.Bf2 b6 13.g4 Nd6 14.Nd4 Ba6 Traps the king in the center 15.Qd2 Nc4 [π15...0-0=] 16.Qe2± 16...b5 17.Ndxb5 Nxb2 18.d6 [18.Bxa7? 18...Rxa7 19.d6 Nxg4] 18...Bxb5? [18...Ng8 19.dxc7 Qc8 20.Ne4] 19.Nxb5

TOP 25

For APRIL 2017

Top 25 Active Oklahoma Players

	Player	This Month	Change +/-	
1	Advait Patel	2580	0	
2	Howard Zhong	2280	0	
3	Daniel Ng	2273	0	
4	Mark Hulsey	2221	0	
5	Tom Braunlich	2210	10	▲
6	Tom Amburn	2200	0	
7	Sergey Galant	2188	0	
8	Joshua Alexander	2142	0	
9	Chibuzo C Ilonze	2133	0	
10	Anthony Paolercio	2108	-4	
11	Logan Zachare	2107	0	
12	Adonis Turner	2103	0	
13	John Cope	2084	0	
14	Chuck Johnson	2077	0	
15	James Tyner	2074	0	
16	David Luscomb	2068	0	
17	Charles D Unruh	2062	0	
18	Tom Patton	2060	0	
19	Neil Naputo Sr	2048	0	▲
20	Matt Dalthorp	2045	0	▲
21	Michael Nugent	2039	0	▲
22	Charles M Unruh	2039	0	▲
23	Veronika Zilajeva	2033	-6	▲
24	James Long	2027	-22	▼
25	Alan Islas	2024	0	

Player of the Month

JIM HUANG

Besides being a fine young player, Jim received the Presidents Award for volunteer service at the OSCO state championship in March, teaching at Ida Freeman for 2 years.

19...cxd6 20.Nxd6+ [20.c3! Qa5 21.Qxb2] 20...Kf8± 21.Nc4 [21.Nf7! Qa5+ 22.Kf1] 21...Nxc4= 22.Qxc4 22...d5 23.Qa4 Nxg4! 24.fxg4 [24.Qxg4 Bxa1] 24...Bc3+ [24...Bxa1 25.0-0! Bf6 26.g5] 25.Ke2 Bxa1 26.Rxa1 e5 27.Rd1+ñ d4 28.c3 [28.Qc6 Rc8 29.Qf3+ Kg7 30.Qf7+ Kh6 31.Rd3] 28...Qc8?? [28...Qg5 29.Qd7 Qe7 30.Qxe7+ Kxe7 31.cxd4 exd4 32.Rxd4 g5 33.Rd5] 29.Qb4+ Ke8 30.Qb5+ Kf8 31.Qb4+ [31.Qxe5! 31...Qe8 32.Be6+] 31...Ke8 32.Qa4+ Kf8 33.cxd4 Qxg4+ 34.Kf1 Kg7 [34...Qh3+ 35.Kg1 Qg4+ 36.Bg3+] 35.dxe5 35...Qh3+ 36.Kg1 Rhd8 37.Rxd8 Rxd8 38.Qxa7+ Kh8 39.Qe3 Qxe3 40.Bxe3 Kg7 41.Kf2 Kf8 42.Bc5+ Ke8 43.Ke3 Rc8 44.Kd4 Ra8 45.e6 Rd8+ [45...g5 46.Kd5+] 46.Ke5 Ra8 47.Bd5 Rc8 48.Bb4 Rc2 49.Kd6 Re2 50.Bc6+ Kd8 51.Ba5+ [51.Bd7 Rxe6+ 52.Bxe6 Ke8 53.a4+] 51...Kc8 52.Bd7+ Kb8 53.e7 g5 54.e8Q+ and Black resigned on move 70. 1-0

Late News! – A New Event:

Oklahoma Chess Association

State Senior Championship

To determine the Oklahoma representative to the U.S. Senior Championship to be held at the U.S. Open in August.

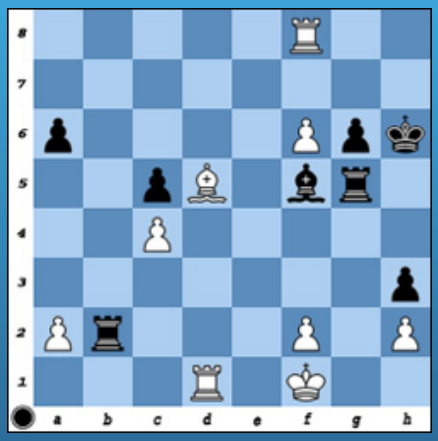
Open to Oklahoma Residents over age 50 with current USChess membership.

April 14-15 • 5-SS • Chandler OK

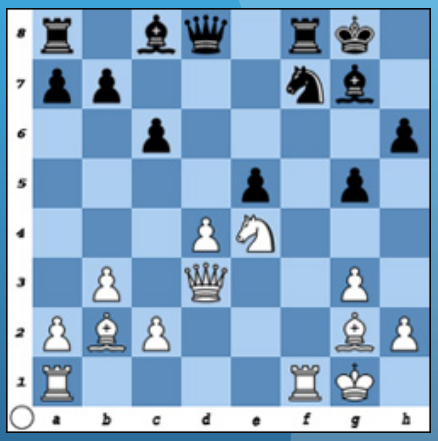
See "News Bites"(page 14) and "Upcoming Tournaments" (page 20) for more info.

PUZZLES

Answers Next Page



BLACK to move and win. (Easy)



WHITE to move and win. (Medium)

Here is an insightful article George wrote for the Oklahoma Chess Bulletin in October 2000. This must be the most he ever talked about chess...

Reminiscing

by George Hulburd

What is a person's favorite thing to pull off while playing a game of chess?

Among the fond claims I've heard are:

"Indirect defense" — yes, that's fun against swift-moving my-first-thought-is-my-best opponents.

Running a passive player out of moves is good. Then a powerful attack that unfolds forcefully to the end of the game is great.

"Zugzwang" is a nice effective way to puncture through the logjam of a stubborn defense. Getting a "speculative sacrifice" (sound or not) to succeed may suit some styles.

Setting diabolical traps seems to thrill some players so much that winning comes second.

The "induced move" is not so exciting when the motif is positional, but when this provoked move walks into an elegant combination, heads may turn and predictions follow of masterhood for the young rascal who pulled it off.

Once I was privileged to hear about a favorite 'strategy' of a senior master who said he enjoyed being paired against high experts and the 2200 variety of national masters. He explained how they are more predictable than other players because they go by the book of correct play knowing proper technique so well. "I can get 'em by breaking the rules of expected play and that keeps me playing chess!" he said with the zest of a tennis player who wrong foots his opponent. So the senior master loved the uniqueness, the exceptions to standard play and produced free jazz while the 2200 player tried to produce a smooth, classical melody and harmony out of his own chessmen.

As for me my favorite gimmick is the "resource move" (if accidental) or "the calculation trick"

Continued on page 22

Answers to the Puzzles

(1) White is threatening mate, but it is black to move and he can cleverly create an unusual back-rank mate with 1… Bd3+! 2. Rxd3, Rg1+! 3. Kxg1, Rb1+ and mate next move.

(2) You can see that black is weak on the diagonal leading to his h7 square, but how can white exploit this? The answer is to give up a piece in order to quickly create a battery on this diagonal with the queen in front, and it happens surprisingly quickly: 1. Nf6+! Bxf6 2. Qg6+, Bg7 3. Be4 The battery is created and black is helpless against the mate on h7. All he can do is delay a bit with 3…Re8, but 4. Qxf7+, Kh8 5. Qg6, Kg8 6. Rf7 is curtains.

Chess Coaching

Available from

USCF Life Master

Tom Braunlich

Achieve Your Chess Goals

•

Personal lessons available at a Reasonable Price

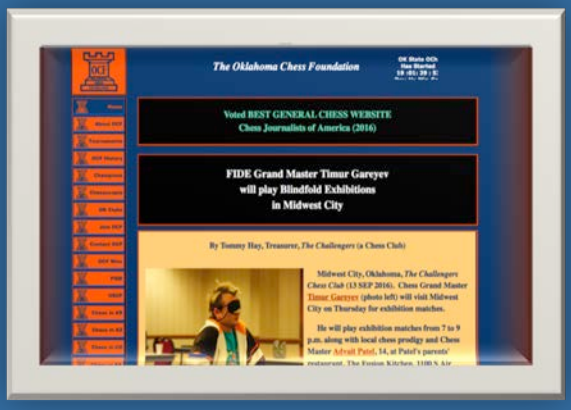
•

Intermediate (1400+) or Advanced (1800+) Students Preferred

Inquiries:
tom.braunlich@cox.net

Visit

www.ocfchess.org


The Oklahoma Chess Foundation
Voted BEST GENERAL CHESS WEBSITE
Chess Journalists of America (2016)
FIDE Grand Master Timur Gareyev
will play Blindfold Exhibitions
in Midwest City

Voted BEST GENERAL CHESS WEBSITE
Chess Journalists of America (2016)

Actively Managed by Jim Hollingsworth
Our Intrepid Texican Volunteer

Get
OCF Member Content like the OCM
Plus

- ✓ Breaking News
- ✓ Archived Chess Information
- ✓ Useful Chess Links

… and more

2018 Arkansas Open Won By Braunlich

The Arkansas Open was held March 24-25, 2018, in Fayetteville on the picturesque summit Mount Sequoyah, just east of town. The old Christian Retreat grounds were a pleasant place to play chess on a rainy cold Spring weekend.

The 14-player Open Section was won by Tom Braunlich ($225) with 4.5 points, who was playing in his first tournament in a couple years that he wasn't directing himself. His draw was with Bill Orton the veteran Arkansas master who won the state title. Daniel Todd (MO) won U1800.

The U1600 Reserve Section was a tie between Ryan Billingsly (AR) (who upset 4-0 leader Carlos Garcia in the last round), and Bharadwaj Chepuri (AR); both with 4.5 ($113 each).

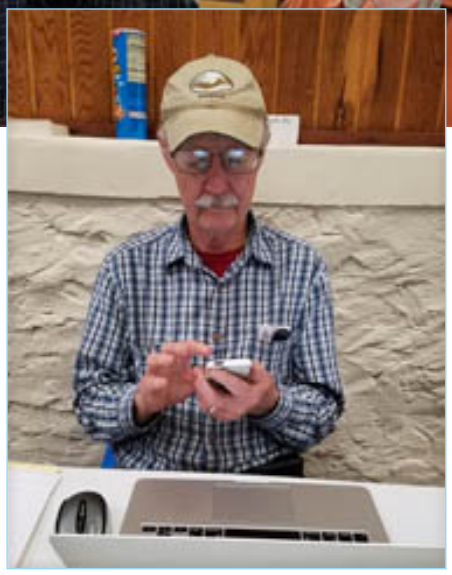
The event was directed by Les Kline, assistant director Karis Bellisario. Sponsored by the ACA.

See "Game of the Month" for an interesting key game from this event.

Braunlich, Tom (2200) –
Schure, Jonathan (1750) [D05]
Arkansas Open (2.2), 24.03.2018 *[TB]*
1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.e3 e6 4.Bd3 Bd6 5.b3 0-0 6.Nbd2 Nbd7 7.Bb2 c5 8.0-0 b6 9.Ne5 Qc7 10.f4 Bb7 11.Nxd7 Nxd7 [11...Qxd7? 12.dxc5 Bxc5 13.Bxf6 gxf6 14.Bxh7+] **12.dxc5 Bxc5?**

13.Bxh7+! Kxh7 14.Qh5+ Kg8 15.Bxg7! Kxg7 [15...Bxe3+ 16.Kh1 f6 17.Bh6 *(17.Qg6? Ne5!)* 17...Ne5 18.Bxf8 Bxd2 19.fxe5 Rxf8 20.Rxf6+-] **16.Qg5+ Kh8 17.Rf3 1-0**

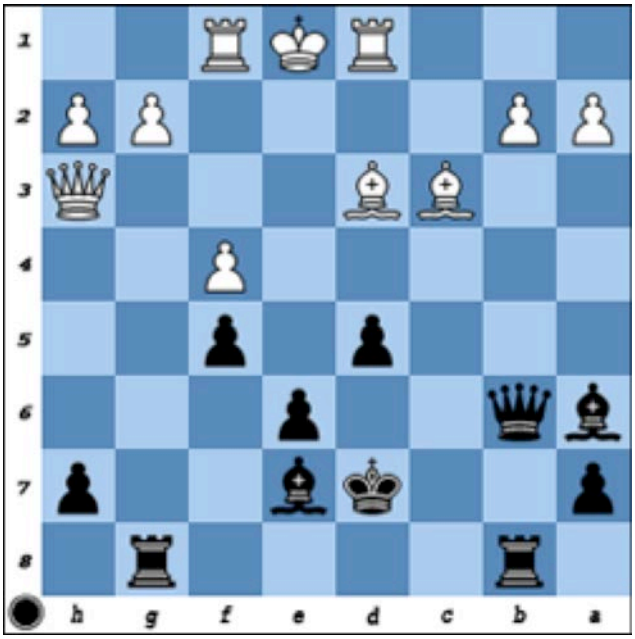
Scenes from the Arkansas Open.
Below: Braunlich and Orton pose with Les Kline.
Bottom: TD Les Kline in action!



A Controversial Puzzle

by Rollie Tesh

I was playing through this game from 1903 between Arturo Reggio and Jacques Mieses, when I came onto the attached position, with black to move.



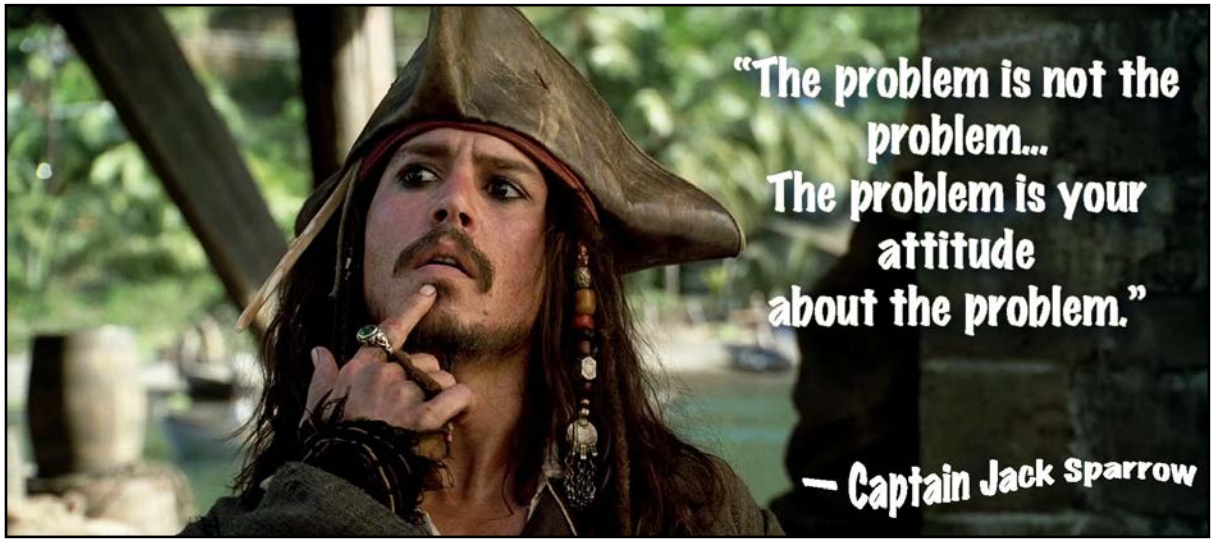
White has just played 22.Bd3, and I knew that black wins the game, and so the tactical possibilities of the attached position became immediately apparent. So I tried to figure out what black's 22nd move would be. I thought I had it figured out (though not certain). But when I saw what Mieses actually played I was most impressed. My move fails, for a reason that had me concerned already, and so I understood Mieses ingenious move the second I saw it (as will you).

After the game I then looked at the comments and discovered that there is actually an interesting debate going on as to whether Mieses 22nd move was indeed his best chance to win or not.

There is actually another clever move in the position that also leads to an apparent win for black, though both moves only give black a very strong endgame (not 100% certain white cannot defend). Not even engines agree which of the two moves gives black the better winning chances. I prefer the move Mieses actually played, for aesthetic reasons if nothing else, but I see the argument for the other move as being perhaps better.

And so the point of this unusual problem is two-fold:
1) Find *both* winning moves for black.
and more importantly ...
2) Offer your opinion as to which move creates the clearest path to a win, and why!

Answer on page 21



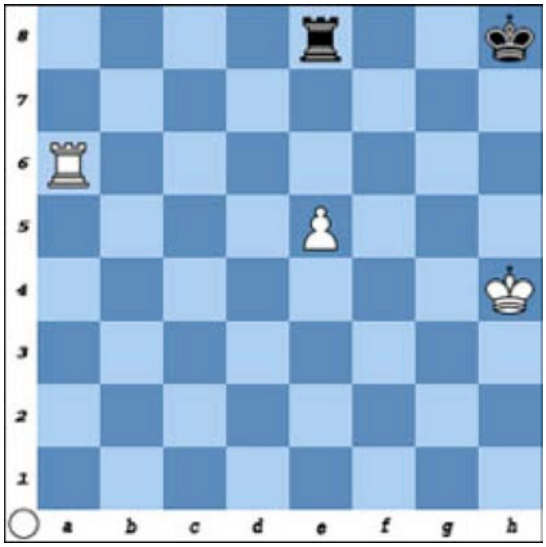
IM John Donaldson Reviews: EXTREME CHESS TACTICS
By IM Yochanan Afek

Holding the titles of Grandmaster of Chess Composition and International Master, Yochanan Afek is well-qualified to write *Extreme Chess Tactics* (2017, Gambit Publishing, www.gambitbooks.com, 143 pages, figurine algebraic, $21.95). His book, aimed at advanced club players, draws from both disciplines with many endgame studies interspersed between examples drawn from practical play.

The material in this book is arranged around 16 chapters covering various tactical themes. Each chapter begins with an introduction of the tactic followed by a few annotated examples and then 15-30 exercises with detailed solutions.

The endgame studies are well chosen with each piece for the winning side having to pull its weight. Here is one simple but elegant study, composed by J. Ulrichsen, that appears in the chapter on Back-Rank Weakness.

Ulrichsen, EBUR 2001
White to move and win



Giving away his extra pawn for a crucial tempo:

1.Kg5!

1.e6? Re7 2.Kg5 Kg7 3.Rd6 Kf8 4.Kf6 allows the surprising defensive resource 4...Rf7+! 5.Ke5 Rb7 when there's no more than a draw.

1...Rxe5+

Declining the gift is no better: 1...Kg7 2.Ra7+ Kf8 3.Kf6 Rc8 4.e6 Re8 5.Rf7+ Kg8 6.Rg7+ Kh8 (6...Kf8 after 7.e7+ Black loses his rook) 7.e7 and White wins easily.

2.Kg6 Re8 3.Kf7!

With a familiar position in which the double threat costs Black his rook.

Extreme Chess Tactics provides both instruction and training and will prove useful for players rated between 1800 and 2400.

Oklahoma Seniors Qualifying Tournament Announced

USChess is launching a new championship tournament for Senior players (age 50+) this year and all state affiliations were asked to choose one representative to send to the event, which is modeled after the Denker National Tournament of High School Champions, alongside of which the Senior Championship will be held during the U.S. Open this August, with one representative from each state.

USChess board member and former OCA board president Chuck Unruh was a primary sponsor of this idea. It appears to be motivated to improve upon the previously-held U.S. Senior Open, which has become somewhat of an unwanted stepchild of the USChess annual schedule. The new idea uses the Denker model and is supposed to have a sponsored prize fund of $10,000.

Last autumn each state was asked to choose a way to select a representative. In March the OCA considered several alternatives and decided to have a seniors-only open 5-SS on April 14-15, called the "Oklahoma Chess Association State Senior Championship". (Arkansas is doing one similar.)

However, as of this writing, USChess has so far failed to publish any detailed information about this national tournament or to put it on the U.S. Open schedule — so who knows if this event is ever actually going to happen. But at least the Oklahoma tourney apparently will…

The tournament is to be held on the weekend of April 14-15, in Chandler, Oklahoma.

See "Upcoming Tournaments" page 20 for details.

TEAM ROSTERS FOR RED RIVER SHOOTOUT ANNOUNCED

With 26 pre-determined matchups created this year's 16th annual Red River Shootout, the "annual team match between the most fanatical chess players in Oklahoma and Texas" will be the biggest ever.

The new "Brazos" roster system this year was used to allow the captains to recruit and get commitments from players, create a balanced competition between the two teams, and then announce the matchups three weeks in advance, with the idea of giving players plenty of time to prepare.

"We are constantly trying to do things to make RRSO better," Oklahoma team organizer Jim Berry commented. All match players are vetted for current USCF membership and made an individual commitment to show.

Each team has a captain who had input on the roster matchups.

The RRSO has been going since 2003 in various formats. Texas leads the series 9-6, but Oklahoma has won the last three years and is going for a "fourpeat".

The announced roster (see next page) shows that Oklahoma has the rating advantage on the top 5-6 boards, but Texas has greater depth and slight rating advantages across class B and C and on the bottom 20 boards, which may prove critical if they play well.

"That's the real beauty of RRSO," said Tom Crane, Tarrant County Chess Club President. "When both sides have so many players, filling so many boards, every match will count. This is going to be fun."

SEE ROSTER NEXT PAGE

RRSO Rosters and Matchups

Texas				Oklahoma		
Bd	Rating	First	Last	Rating	First	Last
1	1939	JIM	KIRK	2107	LOGAN	ZACHARE
2	1894	RAFAEL	LLANOS	2048	NEIL	NAPUTO
3	1874	PHILLIP	FIORINI	1987	SHAUN	GRAHAM-BOWCASTER
4	1873	CORY	KLAUS	1938	PAUL	HODGDEN
5	1864	FRANCISCO	TORT	1927	WAYNE	HATCHER
6	1842	MIKE	DONOVAN	1858	JIM	BERRY
7	1837	SAMUEL	ROSE	1814	MIKE	TUBBS
8	1806	CHRIS	JOHNSON	1750	ERIC	JONES
9	1789	NICOLE	NIEMI	1719	CURTIS	WILLIAMS
10	1765	CARMEN	CHAIREZ	1694	LARRY	DEPUTY
11	1763	MANSOOR	MOHAMMED	1675	LEON	TOLLIVER
12	1700	ZACHARY	GRABER	1577	SCOTT	BAKER
13	1700	DANNY	DUNN	1555	RUBIN	WELLS R
14	1700	ODRIE	APONTE	1551	BRUCE	WELLS B
15	1582	RUSS	HEISE	1530	SHANE	STONEHOCKER
16	1574	BOB	CURTIS	1500	CARLOS	GARCIA
17	1570	CHRIS	DE LA CRUZ	1498	JEREMY	BROWN
18	1530	TOM	CRANE	1493	MAX	BARNES
19	1502	KENNY	SALAN	1365	ADLEY	BUFFORD
20	1500	DOUG	SCHWETKE	1277	DWIGHT	WILKINS
21	1436	LOUIS	REED	1263	TOMMY	HAY
22	1416	JEFF	FRENCH	1292	GABE	TEUBNER
23	1343	ADAM	HART	1220	PHIL	STEGALL
24	1210	KATRINA	MULLER	1181	OMAR	ABOUZAHR
25	1194	CHRIS	WOOD	1180	REX	RYCHLIK
26	684	RICK	GRAN	591	REBECCA	RUTLEDGE

Oklahoma's Most Fanatical Player

About the Veteran of 15 Straight RRSOs

by Victor Yaward

For the hero of our story things started innocently, if not ominously, when he was six. On the school playground in Ardmore he was disappointed to not get picked for kickball. With 26 per side he knew there wasn't room for one more. Besides, he was the extra guy. It wouldn't be fair if he played and the other team was short one player. At least that's what they told him. He resigned himself to what was going to be another boring recess on another long school day.

"Hey, kid. Come here!"

He turned around to see who interrupted his melancholy existence. It was his brother sitting on the gravel with a black and red checkerboard before him. However, the draughts were missing and replaced with cheap plastic chess pieces.

Our hero sighed. He didn't know how to play chess and he didn't even know his brother played. But, his brother was always introducing new games to the family like checkers, dominos and marbles; as long as he made sure he knew all their secrets before sharing. "Gin" was his brother's favorite (and most often used) word in Rummy.

The outcome of Bruce's first chess experience was déjà vu all over again. But on that day, something was different. A total of nine Queens were needed to best him, and Bruce Wells, the "Most Fanatical Chess Player in Oklahoma" was reborn. He went on to win the 1997 Oklahoma City Chess Championship. He is the 2016 Oklahoma Reserve Champion, and the 2017 Oklahoma Speed Chess Champion. He even beat IM John Donaldson in a simultaneous match!

Bruce played in the very first RRSO in 2003. It was in Ardmore. "What better chance to go play chess in Ardmore than Ardmore?" he says. "Don't even have to drive." Since then he's never missed an RRSO. His record is 15, more than anyone in Oklahoma. With a peak rating of 1738, the Oklahoma team captains eagerly recruit him. No bench splinters for him on this team!

In the RRSO record books, Bruce is ranked highly in many categories:

- Most Fanatical Chess Player. Ranked 1st, with 15 RRSOs.
- Warriors. (Points scored in RRSO matches) Ranked 2nd, with 13 match points.
- Terminators. Match victories by a 2.0 or 1.5 score. Ranked 3rd with 5 match victories.
- Gladiators. Games won in matches. Ranked 2nd with 10 games won.

Today, Bruce prepares himself for RRSO by studying online databases. He draws inspiration from the chess of Bobby Fischer and Chris Campbell. He also welcomed the news that his favorite organizer, Jim Berry, and favorite TD, Jim Hollingsworth, are involved in setting up RRSO XVI. He fondly recalls the time he thwarted Jim Hollingsworth's bishop pair in a game long ago.

As all serious chess players know, the REAL Red River Shootout is a series of annual team matches between the most fanatical chess players in Oklahoma and Texas.

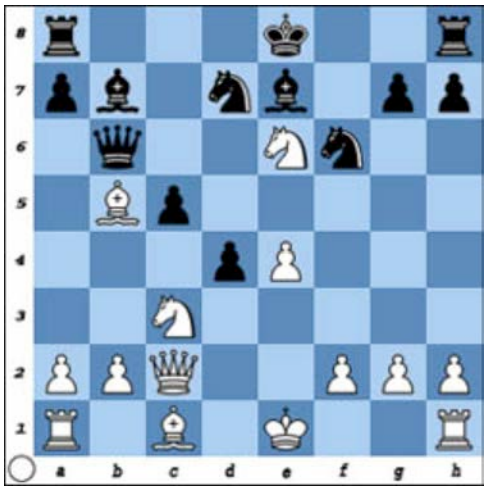
When asked if he had any advice for his teammates on the 26-man chess roster Bruce replied:

"Study hard. Never give a Texan a break!"

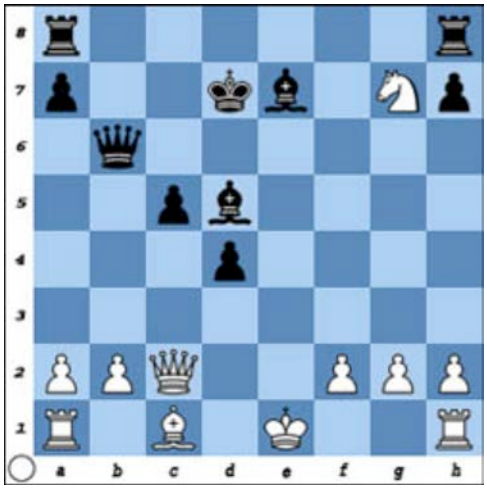
This game was the last round board one at the Arkansas Open and to me was a strange game. Black appears to be busted in the opening. My king was wide open in the center, yet black survives to win with a quick counter-attack led by that same rogue king!

Holmes, Joseph (1862)
Braunlich,Tom (2200)
[A57]
Arkansas Open (5.1), 25.03.2018
[Notes by Braunlich]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 b5 4.Qc2 bxc4 5.e4 e6
[Being very rusty on my old Benko Gambit theory, I mixed up this line with another variation. Better here is 5...d6 and black will get a relatively good form of Benoni with white's Q awkward on c2.]
6.Nc3 Bb7 7.dxe6!? fxe6 8.Bxc4 Be7
[A good alternative for a safer way to play the position was 8...Nc6 9.Nf3 Nd4! 10.Qd3 Nxf3+ 11.Qxf3 Bd6! and here the bishop can be redeployed to c7 and after castling black can more safely follow with ...d7-d5 with bishops poised for kingside attack.]
9.Nf3 d5!?
Risky, but I felt a need to play for a win. [9...0-0 10.e5!]
10.Bb5+ Nbd7
[10...Nc6 11.exd5 exd5 12.Ne5 Qc7 13.Bf4 looked bad to me but the computer says it is fine. 13...Bd6 14.0-0? *(14.Qf5* is the computer's move to maintain equality for white.*)* 14...0-0! 15.Nxc6 Bxf4 winning.]
11.Ng5
[11.e5 Ne4! 12.Nxe4 dxe4 is good for black.]
11...d4 12.Nxe6 Qb6
(see diagram)



Here I realized I had overlooked his next move when going into all this, as otherwise black is winning a piece for some pawns and I thought I would have fair chances in the resulting position (and the compy agrees).
13.Nd5
Strangely my computer still thinks the position is dynamically balanced, but I had the feeling I was on the verge of losing here, as I'm not winning a piece anymore; in fact I have to give up a pawn and expose my king just to stay in the game...
13...Nxd5 14.exd5 Bxd5 15.Nxg7+ Kd8 16.Bxd7 Kxd7



This is a very interesting position. During the game I evaluated this position, which is reached somewhat by force after my ambitious ...d5 move, as dubious for black and felt like I had blundered getting into this

mess. My king is badly exposed, and I'm down a pawn.
However, I did think I had reason for hope here and thought I should win anyway. I have the bishop pair and was comforting myself that I had good control of the center, active pieces, and my king might be temporarily safe on c6. I am also ahead in development and threaten the g2 pawn.

Slowly I began to realize white's king is also going to be unable to reach safety, so the "king safety" evaluation factor was not as bad as I thought ... If he castles kingside I will probably get some attack on the kingside files with my rooks and bishops pointing at his king there. All I needed was one free move or a check on the e-file and I'd have good winning chances.

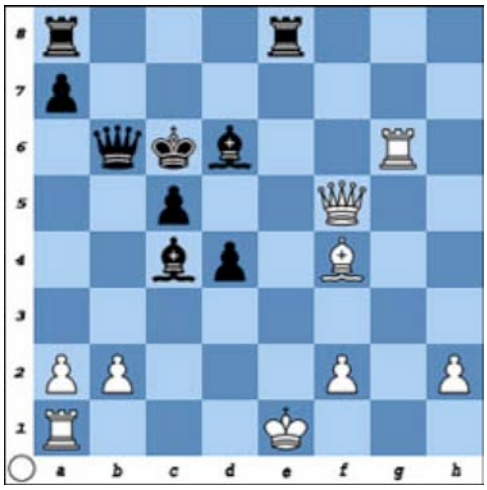
Imagine my surprise when I put this on a computer, expecting it to show me how white should play to consolidate his position here -- only to find it evaluates the position is much better for black! (-1.32)

17.Qf5+ Kc6 18.Ne6
He plays the move that is also the compy's best choice, and later explained that castling seemed too risky.
After the logical 18.0-0 then 18...Rhg8! with latent pressure on g2 pinning this knight, is strong for black. Then 19.Bh6 *(*I was worried about *19.Qxh7* but the computer points out black wins a piece with *19...Bf8! 20.Bh6 Bxg7 21.Bxg7 Qc7 22.Qh6+ Kb7* etc.*)* 19...Raf8 20.Qh3 Qxb2 21.Rab1 Qc2 with a big edge for black (computer line).

18...Bxg2
After grabbing this pawn I felt black had good chances now, as white's king will have no safety either, and my better development and central control should prove decisive... as long as I avoid tricks.
19.Rg1 Bd5
Interestingly 19...Rag8 which I thought was impossible because of 20.Rxg2 is actually also playable for black after 20...Rxg2 21.Qf3+ Kd6 22.Qxg2 Kxe6= showing how resilient black's position really is. However, I definitely believed my light-square bishop is the key to my position and I wouldn't want to give it up anyway.

20.Nf4
Again my opponent plays the best move!
20...Bc4?
Finally, after the two players doing pretty well up till now we trade a pair of bad moves, and fortunately the sequence works out in my favor.
Here I needed to play 20...Rad8 and acquiesce to losing my good bishop, after which the computer gives black a slight edge after 21.Nxd5 Rxd5 22.Qe4 (-0.50) With both kings badly exposed, it would be "anybody's game" here, but black is to be preferred due to his center and favorable endgame possibilities with his d-pawn.
21.Ng6?
He returns the blunder, overlooking something. Instead white could win with 21.b3! as the bishop has no good square. I was planning to sacrifice it for an attack but the computer says it doesn't work after 21...Rae8 22.bxc4 Qb4+ 23.Bd2 Qxc4 24.Rc1 Bd6+ 25.Kd1 Qxa2 26.Rc2 etc. Those are a lot of precise moves in a row white would need to make, but not hard to find. Here tactics keep black from building the attack -- 26...Qb1+ 27.Bc1 Re5? 28.Rxc5+!

21...hxg6 22.Rxg6+ Bd6 23.Bf4 Rhe8+

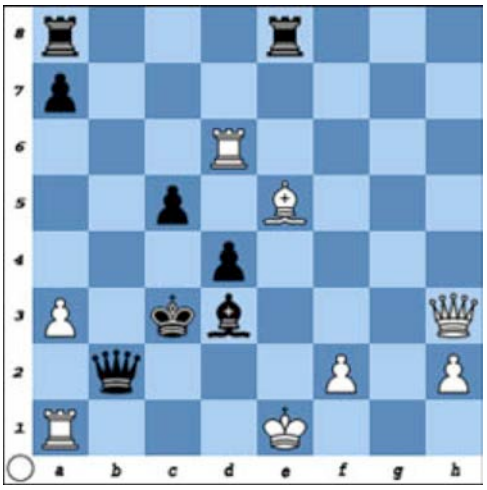


24.Be5

White was relying on this move but had badly misevaluated things. I think he had simply overlooked that his b-pawn would be hanging and after it falls so does his king. But there is no way back now for him.

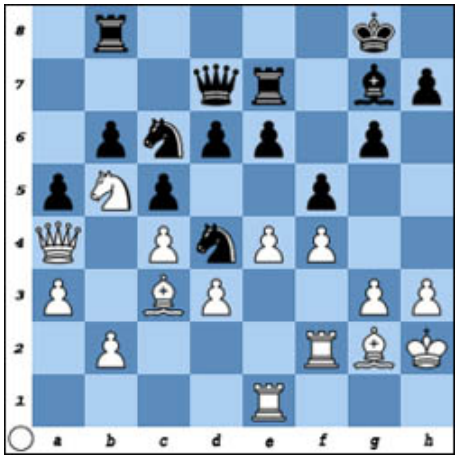
Instead, if White runs with his king he also is in a net: 24.Kd1 Bb3+! *(24...Qxb2* is not as good as in the main line as here white has a Bd2+ when black's king goes to b4.*)* 25.axb3 Qxb3+ 26.Kc1 Re1+ 27.Kd2 Qb4+ mates.

24...Qxb2!
[24...Rxe5+ 25.Qxe5 Rd8 26.0-0-0 is less clear, although still probably winning for black. But why play into that?]
25.Rxd6+ Kb5
The king comes to help in the attack!
Everyone enjoys a good king march...
26.Qd7+
[Note that the pin 26.Rb1 loses to the tactic 26...Rxe5+]
26...Kb4 27.a3+ Kc3 28.Qh3+ Bd3



0-1

Graham-Bowcaster, Shaun (1987)
Dorigo, Ugo (1809)
Lone Star Open 3-17-2018 [A36]
[Notes by SGB]
1. c4 c5 2. g3 Nf6 3. Bg2 g6 4. Nc3 Bg7 5. e4
(5. Nf3 Nc6 6. O-O O-O 7. d3) (5.a3)
5... d6 6. Nge2 Nc6 7. d3 Bg4 8. h3 {This move has been played but it is inferior as it doesn't gain a tempo, and maintaining the N is important to defend d4 from the plan that occurs} ...Bxe2 9. Nxe2 O-O 10. O-O Ne8 {Surprisingly a good plan to re-route the knight to gain strong control over d4, and this is still book} 11. Rb1 Nc7 12. a3 a5 13. Be3 Ne6 14. f4 Ned4 15. Nc3 e6 16. Qa4 {First move out of book} ...Rb8 17. Rf2 Qc7 18. Kh2 f5 19. Re1 Rfe8 20.Bd2 Re7 21. Nb5 Qd7 22. Bc3 b6



23. Nxd4 Bxd4 (23... Nxd4 24. Qxd7 Rxd7 25.exf5) 24. Rfe2 +=

(24. exf5! Bxf2 25. Bxc6 Qc7 26. Re2 Bd4 27. Bxd4 cxd4 28.fxe6 {an Exchange sacrifice that yields a strong positional advantage that will lead to significant white square control inactive files for the black rooks and will net at least one more black pawn and secures a passed pawn for white.}) 24... Rc8? (24... fxe4 {a must} 25. exf5 Bxc3 26. bxc3 e5 27. Bd5+ (27. f6) 27... Kh8 28. Be6 (28. f6 {Possibly even stronger} Ree8 29. fxe5 dxe5)
28... Rxe6 29. fxe6 Qxe6 30. Qb5 Ne7 31. fxe5 Nf5 32. Qxb6 Rf8 33. exd6 Qf6 34. Re8 Rxe8 35. Rxe8+ Kg7 36. Qxc5 Qxc3 37. Qe5+ Qxe5 38. Rxe5 1-0

UPCOMING TOURNAMENTS

For More Tournament Info Visit the USCF Tournament Site:
www.uschess.org/tlas/upcoming.php

Apr 7-8, 2018 — 2018 MISSOURI STATE UNIV OPEN — Joplin, MO

5-SS, G/90, +30. Plaster Student Union Room 315, 1110 E. Madison St., Springfield, MO 65897. 1 Section, Open: $200-150, Class A, B, C, D, U1200/UNR $100 each. 5.0 Bonus: $40. Prizes: b/25 non-scholastic entries. EF: $30 by 4/6, $40 at door. Scholastic (rating only) $15 by 4/6, $25 at door. Reg.: 8-9:30. Rounds: Sat 10, 2:30, 7; Sun 9:30, 2:30. Ent: martin.stahl@joplinchess.org Joplin Chess Club, 2609 New Hampshire, Joplin, MO 64804.

Apr 14-15, 2018 — Okla Chess Association State Senior Championship — Chandler, OK

LATE NEWS! 5-SS; G/90+30. Chandler Baseball Camp, 2000 Park Road, Chandler, OK 74834. (Chandler exit from I-44, South to Price Ave, Left on 6th St (Price Rd), follow around curve and west 1 mile). EF: $20 Prizes: (based on 20) 1st: $150, 2nd: $100, 3rd: $75. *Travel stipend awarded to Senior Championship entrant.* Reg.: 8:30 - 9:30 AM 4/14. Eligibility: Open to residents of Oklahoma, current USChess members who are age 50+ by April 14, 2018. Tiebreaks: Modified median, Cumulative. Rds.: 10-2-7, 9-2. Contact: Joe Veal, 405-408-4659, joeveal2016@yahoo.com

APR 21, 2018 — RRSO XVI (Red River Shootout) — Davis, OK

"The annual team match between the most fanatical chess players in Oklahoma and Texas!"
As of April 1, the team rosters were completed by the organizers and published (see page 14-15 above). Registration is over, as there is no entry at the door. If you have any questions contact info:
TD: Jim Hollingsworth: texaschessteam@yahoo.com MORE INFO: http://www.ocfchess.org/ocf_tournaments.html
Rounds: 10:00am and 1:00pm, Time Control G/60;+30, Prizes: Bragging rights. Location: Treasure Valley Casino, I-35 and Hwy 7 (Exit 55 off I-35), Davis, OK (580) 369-3223. Spectators welcome.

May 18, 2018 — GRANDMASTER GAREYEV BLINDFOLD EXHIBITION — Tulsa, OK

6:30pm, Friday May 18, Wyndham Hotel Tulsa, just west of 41st and Garnett. Spectators welcome. No fee to attend, but recommended donation to the OCF tournament fund at the door.
GM Gareyev set a world record last year for simultaneous blindfold play. For us he will give a lecture about how to play blindfold chess yourself and why you should, and then give a simultaneous exhibition against seven pre-selected players. He will stay to play in the FKB Memorial the following day…

May 19-20, 2018 — 2nd FRANK K BERRY MEMORIAL — Tulsa, OK

5-SS; G/90+30. Wyndham Hotel, 10918 E. 41st St., Tulsa, OK. 918-627-5000. HR: $79. Two Sections: Open and Reserve (U1600). EF: $40 if mailed by 5/15, $50 thereafter, FREE for Masters 2200+ (deducted from winnings). Free OCF. Prizes $$2600 (1st Prize Gtd. each section, rest b/65 paid entries) Open: $1,000(G)-250, X: 200, A: 200, B: 200. Reserve (U1600): $250(G)-100, D: 200, U1200/UNR: 200. Reg.: 9-9:45am Sat 5/19. Byes: One ½-pt bye Rds. 1-5 if commit before Sat 9pm. Rds.: (5/19) 10-2:30-7, (5/20) 9-1:15. Entries to: Tom Braunlich, 7500 S. Birch, Broken Arrow, OK 74011. Inquiries: tom.braunlich@cox.net Web: www.ocfchess.org

May 25-28, 2018 — TX STATE AND AMATEUR CHAMPIONSHIP — Ft.Worth TX

7SS. DFW Airport Marriott South, 4151 Centreport Dr., Fort Worth, TX 76155. $$ 8,350G. www.dallaschess.com

July 13-15, 2018 — KANSAS OPEN — Lenexa, KS

5SS, G/120 d5. Lenexa, KS (near Kansas City) Three Sections starting July 14 (Plus Blitz and Bughouse tournaments on July 13): **Prizes:** $2070 b/80 non-scholastic rate entries, **For More Information, see TLA or contact:** Laurence Coker, 8013 W 145th St., Overland Park, KS 66223. wlcoker7@hotmail.com.

July 21-22, 2018 — JERRY SPANN MEMORIAL — OKC, OK

5-SS; G/90+30. Wyndham Hotel – Oklahoma City, 2945 Northwest Expressway. Two Sections: Open and Reserve (U1600). EF: $40 if mailed by 7/13, $50 thereafter, FREE for Masters 2200+ (deducted from winnings). Free OCF. Details to be announced Inquiries: tom.braunlich@cox.net Web: www.ocfchess.org

Solutions to "A Controversial Puzzle"

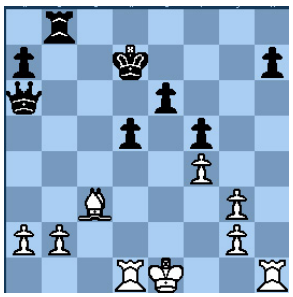
(1) The first solution is the spectacular one played by Mieses in the game:
22…Rg3!!
A brilliant 1-2 Combination designed simply to draw White's queen away from its protection of the e3 square, after which black will play …Qe3+ and mate next move thanks to the black bishop on a6 controlling the e2 square to deliver the mate.
23.Qxg3 Bh4 !
The point. The queen is skewered, as taking this bishop will allow the mate with …Qe3+. But White can give up his queen and play on:
24.Bxa6 Bxg3+ 25.hxg3 Qxa6 26.Rh1
With R+B for the Queen, and the h7-pawn about to fall for black, the position is still far from being won. White can put up serious resistance. In the game Meises managed to outplay Reggio and notch the victory:
Rg8(?) (…Re8 is better) 27.Rxh7+ Kc6 28.Rh6 Kb5 29.Rxd5+ exd5 30.Rxa6 Kxa6 31.Kf2 Kb5 32.b3 Kc5 33.Kf3 d4 34.Bd2 Kd5 35.Be1 Rc8 36.g4 fxg4+ 37.Kxg4 Rc2 38.g3 d3 39.Kg5 d2 0-1

(2) The alternative solution to the position in the main diagram is only a little less spectacular, but some pundits believe would lead to an endgame that is easier to win:
22… Rxg2!
The basic idea for the combination is similar, but this way ensures Bh4 will be check.
The pundits give this as the main line:
23. Qxg2 Qe3+ 24. Qe2 Bh4+ 25.Rf2 Bxf2+ 26. Kf1 Bxd3 27.Rxd3 Qxe2 28. Kxe2, Bc5.

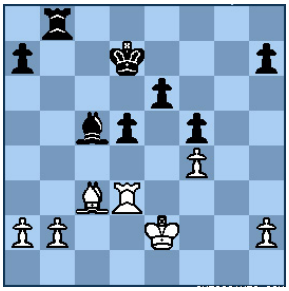
This resulting pawn-up endgame is claimed to be an easier (more practical) win for black.

Besides an argument from the pundits about which line is "prettier" and which more practical, the controversy boils down to these two diagrams:

(1)



(2)



Which endgame would you prefer to have in order to have the best chances to win?

Is it a matter of taste? Let's try to get an objective evaluation: Stockfish 7 initially evaluates 22…Rg3 as significantly better than 22…Rxg2 (by -1.25 to -0.8).

However, if you follow the main line a bit, 23.Qxg3 Bh4 24.Bxa6 Bxg3+ 25.hxg3 Qxa6 26.Rh1 here instead of 26…Rg8 as played in the game (which is a mistake), it gives 26…Re8 27. Rxh7+ Re7 as best for black, but now the evaluation falls to only -0.5), a slight edge and a long way to go to win.

On the other hand Stockfish says Solution 2 leads to 23. Qxg2 Qe3+ 24. Qe2 Bh4+ 25.Rf2 Bxf2+ 26. Kf1 Bxd3 27.Rxd3 Qxe2 28. Kxe2, Bc5 which it evaluates -0.99 for black, a better choice by about ½ a point.

In a practical game, a player before choosing solution 2 would have to see something further, that in that last position 29. Rh3 doesn't win the pawn back in view of 29…d4!

So do you care more about esthetics (22…Rg3!!) or practical beauty (22…Rxg2!)

Neither one leads to a clear easy victory. There will still be work ahead. Both would be a headache to win! But it looks like solution 2 would be the best chance.

(if premeditated). This little trick of mine is not original. It has evolved and flows about within more than one tournament skittles room.

To tie these comments to Oklahoma chess, in the early 1970's at an NAO held on the OSU campus, GM Pal Benko once gave a simul. He had been traveling as a coach with 8-time Brazilian Champion WIM Ruth Cardoso who played in that NAO while he spent most of his time at Dermer's Hideaway Pizza Restaurant hustling speed chess at odds. The odds were your 5 min to his 3 and your choice of opening for a dollar a game. Benko made more than meal money while at the same time drawing a small crowd with his running commentary and comments. He noted that GMs use instinct more than calculation. To illustrate, he threw out a lot of moves during his allotted 3 min per game which at first looked refuted in the time scrambles, then the ex-patriot Hungarian GM triumphed over the hopeful but hapless challengers with amazing acrobatic tactics! I contrast this to my general one-out-of-three rate of success in slow chess after a calculating, time spending search for the elusive one move that basically saves a sickly looking forced line which needs to work or else.

A stunning revelation once opened my eyes in Eureka Springs, Ark.

In a skittles room about 10 years ago a 2150 rated player and I performed a short post mortem. Our game was essentially over after a simple move I missed reduced my game to rubble. Once that was disposed of my tall, Arabic, mysterious opponent had a remarkable tale to tell. We sat at a cozy table alone with plenty of time on our hands. Pleasantly, he brought up what had helped his play the most as if I were "Johnny Appleseed" and should spread his suggestion around. It turned out his favorite thing - the resource move - was also my favorite thing in chess. Fascinated, but before I could shrug the whole idea off as done already and worth 30 to 50 rating points (and so what else is new), his story really started to get me interested.

He explained how he had been trapped on a plateau of being a class A player for 8 years. And one day at home, while sitting in his favorite easy chair without chess book or board, just randomly thinking about chess, his thoughts became directed towards an idea he had read or heard about in the past. At first the idea was more like an unimportant footnote; then the exciting discovery grew and grew and swept him off to every chess tournament in his area. Eureka! Overnight he exploded into an expert (in his mind) even before accomplishing within the year the feat of jumping a big 200 rating points. 200 points and he held it.

I can't come up with his name. Our game score was lost. I never saw him again. He was gone like a fading hallucination. Real was his argument for the "resource move" and he made it seem such an important and common prerequisite. Forgot his exact words. He had paid his dues long enough to acquire instinct for promising moves and I observed he had clear sight of the board to be seen by the way he replaced mussed up positions. Calculate he could — working not to be cheated out of exclamation point moves, setting up good traps, gaining time for good positions and not giving in to nervous doubts by stopping short with his move check. Here some players will be thinking "why waste time, wool gathering over loser moves like this one," then let a good chance slip away.

I'll give a sample game, an example of the "resource move". The fun for me began here in about 1960:

George Hulburd (2100)
Harlow Daly (2200 Master Emeritus) - [E72]
Green Mtn Op, Rutland, VT, 1960
[Notes by Hulburd]
1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.g3 Bg7 4.Bg2 0–0 5.Nc3 d6 6.e4 e5 7.d5 Ne8 8.Nge2 f5 9.exf5 gxf5 10.0–0

Nd7 11.Be3 Nef6

This opening meant nothing to me. If 1.d4 d5 White surely would have played 2.Bf4 as H. Daly was a pioneer of it.

Daly appeared to be in his seventies, knew how to have a good time and when he laughed his whole head seemed to open up like a "Sesame Street" character. He hailed from Maine and drove through the Granite Mountains of New Hampshire three years in a row to this tournament and very sociably sacked up the best of the goodies to haul back home.

He had played me each time he had visited; the first two times he played White and "Daly's Opening" - London System with 2. Bf4.

It was like IM Mike Brooks swooping down upon Oklahoma like a Viking from the North!

12.h3 a6 13.Rc1 Qe8 14.Qc2 Nh5 15.Qd2 Qf7 16.Bh6 f4 17.Bxg7 Qxg7 18.Qd3 Nc5 19.Qf3 Qg6 20.g4 Nf6 21.b4 Nd3 22.Rb1 a5 23.a3 axb4 24.axb4 h5 25.Ne4 Ra3 26.Nxf6+ Rxf6 27.gxh5 Qh7 28.Kh2 Bf5 29.Rg1 Kh8 [29...Kf7] 30.Nc1

About here I gave a small "Oh shucks!" snap of the fingers because White appeared lost and may have been if Black had played 29...Kf7. But wait...now I saw a resource...

30...e4 31.Qe2 Nxc1 32.Rbxc1 f3

33.Qb2!

[The resource white had earlier spotted.]

... Qe7 34.Qxa3 fxg2 35.Rxg2 Qe5+ 36.Qg3 Kh7 37.Qxe5 dxe5 38.Rcg1 Kh6 39.Rg7 c6 40.Rxb7 cxd5 41.cxd5 Kxh5 42.Re7 1–0

During the rest of this tournament Harlow Daly would give me now and then that same snap of the fingers. Years later, I found out that the TD Ralph Williams, had kept a copy of my score sheet for reference playing postal chess. I was flattered, but he should have paid more attention to moves 29-34 instead of remaining a class B player.

Just reminiscing . . .

George P. Hulburd, with Frank K. Berry during a visit to Hulburd's assisted living facility in 2014.